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Page 2

Amendments to the Abstract

Please replace all prior versions of the Abstract with the following:

-- ABSTRACT

In an end pumped or axially pumped solid state laser using a laser diode as a pumping light source, the laser crystal comprises a plurality of individual laser crystals arranged along an axial direction that have progressive higher concentrations of rare earth ~~ions~~ions toward the output end. By thus arranging the individual laser crystals containing varying concentrations of rare earth ions, the absorption of laser for each length can be made uniform so that the tolerance for a high power pumping light is increased, and the laser output can be maximized without damaging the laser crystal. --